

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJ: AGRARIAN/POLITICAL JOURNALIST EXCHANGE

REF: MOSCOW 0752

DURING INTRODUCTORY CALL BY CHARGE ON ZA RUBEZHOM JANUARY 27, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF KRAMINOV BROUGHT UP AND FURTHER DETAILED UNION OF JOURNALISTS PROPOSAL FOR EXCHANGE OF POLITICAL WRITERS THIS YEAR (REFTEL). KRAMINOV, AN INFLUENTIAL FIGURE IN UNION (WHICH PUBLISHES HIS MILLION-PLUS CIRCULATION WEEKLY), MADE NO MENTION OF AGRICULTURAL WRITERS EXCHANGE, BUT REFERRAL SPECIFICALLY TO EXCHANGE OF "EDITORS OR DEPUTY EDITORS" OF POLITICAL PUBLICATIONS. HE SINGLED OUT NOVOYE VREMYA, MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN' AND ZA RUBEZHOM AS EXAMPLES OF PUBLICATIONS TO BE REPRESENTED AND SPOKE OF UP TO TEN PARTICIPANTS. (CLEAR IMPLICATION OF HIS REMARKS WAS THAT HE IS NOT ONLY CANDIDATE TO PARTICIPATE BUT PROBABLY ONE OF INITIATORS OF PROPOSAL.)

2. RECALLING UNILATERAL 1961 TRIP OF LEADING SOVIET JOURNALISTS TO U.S. AND OGGD RECEPTION BY JFK, NYTIMES AND OTHERS, KRAMINOV IMPLIED THAT IF EXCHANGE CANNOT BE ARRANGED, SOVIETS WOULD CONSIDER PAYING OWN WAY FOR VISIT IF "HOST" ORGANIZATION COULD BE FOUND TO HELP THEM WITH PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS.

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3. WHILE KRAMINOV'S INTEREST IN THIS EXCHANGE IS DOUBTLESS

TO DEGREE SELF-SERVING, WE BELIEVE THAT PROGRAM FOR EDITORS AND DEPUTY EDITORS OF POLITICAL PUBLICATIONS IS MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN ONE FOR "POLITICAL WRITERS" IN GENERAL. THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TRUE IF GROUP IS MADE UP OF PERSONS WHO HAVE NOT YET VISITED U.S., OR AT LEAST NOT IN PAST FEW YEARS. SUCH A GROUP COULD PERHAPS BE MATCHED ON OUR SIDE WITH FOREIGN NEWS OR EDITORIAL PAGE EDITORS OF PROMINENT U.S. PUBLICATIONS WITHOUT EXTENSIVE FOREIGN-BASED STAFFS, E.G. CINCINNATI INQUIRER, KANSAS CITY STAR, DENVER POST. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH JOURNALISTS UNION, WE COULD OF COURSE INDICATE INFORMALLY WHAT SORT OF DELEGATION WOULD INTEREST US.

4. BEFORE MAKING DECISION, EVEN IN PRINCIPLE, WE WILL NEED FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH JOURNALISTS' UNION, AND P&C COUNSELOR HAS APPOINTMENT FEBRUARY SIX TO PURSUE MATTER. WE WOULD RECOMMEND FOLLOWING APPROACH AT THIS POINT: A) INDICATE THAT WE PREPARED TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY ONE EXCHANGE OF JOURNALISTS IN 1975; B) SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION ON UNION'S INTENTIONS RE COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS IT HAS PROPOSED; AND C) OFFER ASSISTANCE IN SCHEDULING AND APPOINTMENTS IF UNION WISHES TO SEND GROUP TO U.S. AT OWN EXPENSE.

5. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT AND GUIDANCE BEFORE FEBRUARY SIX.  
MATLOCK

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